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Prof. Cope remarked upon the peculiar features of some of the figures on the plates in Benzel's *Reptilfauna der Gosauformation*.

Stated Meeting, November 17, 1871.

Present nineteen members.

MR. FRALEY, Vice-President, in the chair.

Mr. Phillips and General Tilghman, recently elected, were introduced to the presiding officer, and took their seats.

A photograph of Mr. Chabas was received for insertion in the Album.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from M. F. Chabas, dated Chalon sur Saône, Oct. 21, 1871 (Proc. 83, 84, 85); from the Linnean Society, London, Aug. 2 (xiv., i. 82, 83, 84, 85); and from the Smithsonian Institution (86).

A letter from the Linnean Society announced the sending of publications.

Donations for the Library were received from the Prussian Academy, the Montsouris Observatory, the Astronomical and Linnean Societies, the London Nature, the Boston Public Library and Dr. Samuel A. Greene, the Franklin Institute, the College of Pharmacy, the Medical News, the Penn Monthly, Mr. Latrobe of Baltimore, and the California Academy of Sciences.

A letter was received from Mr. Henry W. Field, dated Royal Mint, London, Oct. 22d, accepting his appointment to prepare an obituary notice of the late Sir John F. W. Herschel.

Mr. H. C. Carey read an obituary notice of the late Stephen Colwell, pursuant to notice.

The death of John Edwards Holbrook, M. D., formerly Prof. Anat. Med. Coll., South Carolina, which took place at Norfolk, Mass., Sept. 7, 1871, was announced by the Secretary.

The death of Ed. W. Brayley, F. R. S., Feb. 1, 1870, was announced by the Secretary.

A memoir for the Transactions: On the Tours of the Chess Knight, by M. Serge de Stehoulepnikoff, was received, with a letter from the author, dated Circleville, O., Nov. 3, 1871, and, on motion, referred to the following Committee; Prof. George Allen, Mr. Pliny E. Chase and General Tilghman.

A Note on the Footmark in Hieroglyphic Script, by M. F. Chabas, of the Institute of France, was read by the Secretary.

Note of F. Chabas, of the Institute of France, on the Foot-mark in the Hieroglyphic Script.

I find in the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society (Vol. XI., p. 312) the following statement:

“Mr. Lesley referred also to the fact that the ancient Egyptian B was graphically represented by the leg, A by the arm, T by the hand, and that what is called the comb may have been meant for the foot-mark.”

I am not acquainted with any hieroglyphic character bearing in its graphical form a nearer resemblance to a comb than [Mr. Chabas here gives the M as in the first King's name, Mena,] the larger drawings of which show manifestly to be a chess or draught-board with its men.

But the feet occur in the hieroglyphic script, not with a phonetic but with a symbolic worth. They are a mark of the actual presence of the delineator. When a pious Egyptian repaired to some place of worship, in a distant country, he would sometimes, as a token of his zeal, incise a figure of his two feet on some stone in the neighborhood. Similar sculptures were observable on the terrace of the temple of Khons at Karnak, and have been published by M. Prisse d'Avennes; the name, pedigree and titles of the pilgrim are generally written close to his sculptured feet, which are represented either naked or shoed; in one case they are replaced by the soles or feet-marks.

This practice was probably very old, but either from the scarcity of monuments or the neglect of observers, it can not be traced up in the first empire. One of the instances published by M. Prisse refers to the reign of Apries.

F. CHABAS.

Chalon sur Saône, Oct. 21, 1871.

Mr. Lesley explained that he referred to the comb-like syllable *Kam* which occurs frequently with the signification "black; to become black," and therefore, as the name of Egypt *Kam* "black land," the *HaM* of the Hebrew Scriptures. Its verbal meaning is "to advance or be advanced to completion," and is so used in reference to any work, building or monument. Although the figure is drawn with a square heel, yet the slant of its front end, and the setting upon it of five points like toes suggests a plausible explanation of its meaning to *advance*, provided it be allowed to represent the human foot, which otherwise does not appear in Egyptian, except in profile and in connection with the leg. Why Bunsen should call it the tail of a crocodile it would be difficult to explain. Dümichen's plates of the legends on the walls of Dendereh do not give the figure on a scale large enough to decide upon its original shape, and I have never happened to see it on the monuments.

Mr. Cope presented for publication in the Proceedings, with four octavo plates, a communication on certain extinct vertebrata in the strata of North Carolina; and illustrated a sketch of his paper by exhibiting some of these fossil remains.

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Officers and Council were read.

Pending nominations Nos. 679, 680, 681, and new nomination No. 682 were read.

Mr. Fraley reported that he had duly executed the Power of Attorney in the case of the Michaux legacy and transmitted the same to M. Carlier.

The request of Dr. Somers, Prof. Chem. Southern University at Greensboro, Ala., was referred to the Committee on Publication, and the meeting was adjourned.